

By: Representative Ellington (By Request)

To: Conservation and Water Resources

HOUSE BILL NO. 879

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 59-21-89, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES AND ANY AGENCY IN  
3 AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO ENFORCE WATER SAFETY TO PURCHASE  
4 ANY TYPE OF SPEED DETECTION EQUIPMENT FOR DETECTION OF SPEED  
5 VESSELS ON MARINE WATERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 59-21-89, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 59-21-89. (1) It is unlawful for any person, other than a  
10 law enforcement officer on duty, to use or display oscillating or  
11 rotating blue lights on a vessel operating on the public waters of  
12 this state. Upon the approach of an authorized law enforcement  
13 vessel operating a strobe, rotating or oscillating blue light or  
14 giving audible signal by siren or both, the operator of a vessel  
15 shall yield the right-of-way and shall stop and remain in position  
16 until the authorized law enforcement vessel has passed, except  
17 when otherwise directed by a law enforcement officer.

18 (2) The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and any  
19 agency that enters into a memorandum of agreement with the  
20 department for the purpose of enforcement of boat and water safety  
21 are authorized to purchase or use any type of speed detection  
22 equipment for detection of the speed of vessels traveling on the  
23 marine waters of this state.

24 (3) A person violating subsection (1) of this section is  
25 guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by  
26 a fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more  
27 than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).



28           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
29 and after July 1, 2003.

